

REMARKS

The following amendment amends Claims 1, 5, and 17 and adds new Claims 21 and 22. No new matter is added and no new issues are raised by these amendments. The amendment to Claim 5 is not directed to any art rejection and is meant to correct proper dependency upon the cancellation of Claim 4 without prejudice. Now in the application are Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-13, and 17-22 of which Claims 1, 6, 11, and 17 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection, and place the presently pending Claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Specification:

Applicant notes with appreciation the proper use of certain trademarks in the application and has accordingly capitalized each mark throughout the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by a number of web pages downloaded from www.ideaplace.org/tester/fbmaking.html on July 31, 2003 (hereinafter "Bolton"). For the ease of the discussion below each rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is discussed separately.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a):

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Bolton. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite two or more selectable graphical user interface objects for use by a user to interact with a provided interactive fill-in-the-blank applet. This feature of the invention can be important in a testing environment where a

student is being examined using one embodiment of the on-line educational course of Applicant's invention. The two or more selectable graphical user interface objects facilitate interaction between the fill-in-the-blank applet and the user allowing, at a minimum, the user to clear an entry or to submit an entry for evaluation by the applet, using one click of a mouse button. In this manner, the user can clear an answer using a single point and click operation or submit an answer using a single point and click operation.

Bolton does not teach such a feature. Bolton discloses an applet for use in testing that includes a first text box for rendering a question and a second text box having an "answer" label for a user to enter a response to the displayed question. Nowhere do the web pages of Bolton disclose an interactive fill-in-the-blank applet that generates a graphical user interface displaying two or more selectable graphical user interface objects for use by a user to interact with the applet. Hence, Bolton does not anticipate amended Claim 1. Claims 2 and 5 depend from Claim 1 and thereby incorporate the novel features of amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

B. Rejection of Claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a):

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Bolton. Applicant traverses this rejection in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claims 18-20 depend, directly or indirectly, upon amended Claim 17 and thereby incorporate the novel features of amended Claim 17.

Amended Claim 17 is directed to an electronic device for providing an on-line educational course that includes a memory including a web page having an interactive fill-in-the-blank applet embedded therein. A processor of the electronic device executes the fill-in-the-blank applet to generate a graphical user interface on a display screen. The graphical user interface displays on the display screen two or more selectable graphical user interface objects for use by a user to interact with the fill-in-the-blank applet.

Nowhere does the cited web pages of Bolton disclose an applet to generate a graphical user interface having two or more selectable graphical user interface objects for use by a user to interact with the applet. Accordingly, Bolton does not anticipate Claims 17-20. Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). For the ease of the discussion below each claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is discussed separately.

A. Rejection of Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,347,943 of Fields, *et al.* (hereinafter "Fields") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,049 of Sonnenfeld (hereinafter "Sonnenfeld"). Applicant traverses this rejection in view of the remarks below.

Claims 6 and 7 are directed to a method performed in an electronic device that provides an on-line educational course. By receiving a request for a web page at the electronic device from a remote client, the electronic device in response sends a web page containing a question and a fill-in-the-blank applet embedded therein to the remote client. The applet generates a graphical user interface that includes instructions to a user to enter an answer to the question provided by the web page. The applet further includes a definition file, which is unavailable to the user, defining a correct answer to the question such that the definition file is separate from a source code for the web page to prevent a user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the source code.

The Fields patent is directed to a method and system for creating an individualized course of instruction for each user. The method and system of the Fields patent teaches that if the user answers a question the user has the option of validating the answer immediately. If the user chooses the validation, the assessment mechanism displays the

correct answer accompanied by a short explanation and a feedback region. After the user is finished, the assessment mechanism displays just the topics in the knowledge base relating to the questions that the user either failed to answer or answered incorrectly. The user does not have to follow the exact pathway displayed by the assessment mechanism. The displayed topic list permits a user to choose any topic of interest. As admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action, the Fields patent does not teach or suggest a fill-in-the-blank applet embedded in a web page, having a definition file, which is unavailable to the user, defining a correct answer to the question such that the definition file is separate from a source code for the web page to prevent a user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the source code. ✓

The Sonnenfeld patent is cited for teaching or suggesting such a feature. The Sonnenfeld patent is concerned with an interactive query service system that includes a database storing a number of query sections, each section including parameters defining a relation with other query sections. The query server is adapted to generate, based on the parameters, query sequence sets, each set having at least one query section. The query server transmits a query sequence set as a logical unit to a client system. The query server receives responses of a user to the query sequence set from the client system and processes the received responses to produce an output.

The Examiner cites column 22, line 39 to column 23, line 15 of the Sonnenfeld patent for teaching or suggesting a fill-in-the-blank applet that includes a definition file, which is unavailable to a user of a graphical user interface generated by the applet, defining a correct answer to a question such that the definition file is separate from a source code for a web page to prevent a user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the source code. Nevertheless, the cited passage of the Sonnenfeld reference teaches or suggests the use of skeleton files or HTML files that contain key tag words embedded in the text to allow a test designer to customize the structure and layout of a web document to provide a unique look and feel to each test taker if so desired. In other words, the skeleton files of the Sonnenfeld reference are nothing more than the source code for a web document customized to a particular user. They are essentially source ✓

code templates for web pages having a select number of tags that allow customization of a web page to a user. Accordingly, the Sonnenfeld reference fails to teach or suggest a definition file included with an applet, which is unavailable to the user, defining a correct answer to a question such that the definition file is separate from a source code for the web page to prevent a user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the source code. ✓

Hence, the Sonnenfeld patent fails to bridge the factual deficiencies of the field patent. Accordingly, neither the Fields patent nor the Soddendorf patent, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of Claims 6 and 7. Accordingly, neither the Fields patent nor the Soddendorf patent, alone or in combination, detract from the patentability of Claims 6 and 7. Hence, Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

B. Rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fields in view of Sonnenfeld and further in view of Bolton. Applicant traverses this rejection in view of the remarks below.

Claim 8 depends from Claim 6, and thereby incorporates the novel features of Claim 6.

Claim 8 is directed to an applet tag included in the recited web page that instructs a browser to execute instructions for running the claimed fill-in-the-blank applet.

The Bolton reference is cited for teaching an applet tag. However, the Bolton reference fails to teach or suggest a fill-in-the-blank applet that includes a definition file, which is unavailable to the user, defining a correct answer to the question such that the definition file is separate from a source code for the web page to prevent a user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the source code. Accordingly, the cited web pages of Bolton fail to bridge the factual deficiencies of Fields and Sonnenfeld and therefore fails to detract from the patentability of Claim 8. ✓

Accordingly, Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

C. Rejection of Claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolton in view of Sonnenfeld. Applicant traverses this rejection in view of the remarks below.

Claims 11 and 13 are directed to a computer readable medium for use in an electronic device that provides an on-line educational course. The claimed computer readable medium includes instructions for running a fill-in-the-blank applet for displaying a question and a text box to a user. With the applet running the user can enter an answer to the question in the text box. The computer readable medium further includes hyper-text mark-up language (HTML) code, which includes the question, to reference the applet. The computer readable medium also includes a definition file. The definition file is unavailable to the user and indicates a correct answer for the question presented. The definition file is separate from the HTML code to prevent the user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the HTML code.

Bolton does not teach or suggest a definition file, unavailable to the user, indicating a correct answer for a question that is separate from the HTML code that includes the question. Furthermore, the Sonnenfeld patent does not teach or suggest a definition file, unavailable to the user, that includes a correct answer for the question where the definition file is separate from the HTML code which includes the question. ✓

Neither the web pages of Bolton nor the Sonnenfeld patent, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of Claims 11 and 13. Accordingly, Applicant contends that neither Bolton nor Sonnenfeld, alone or in combination, detract from the patentability of Claims 11 and 13 and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

D. Rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolton in view of Sonnenfeld and further in view of Fields. Applicant traverses this rejection in view of the remarks below.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 11, and thereby incorporates the novel features of Claim 11.

As discussed above with regard to the rejection of Claims 11 and 13 neither Bolton nor Sonnenfeld, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 11. Furthermore, as admitted by the Examiner, Fields does not teach or suggest a definition file that is unavailable to the user that indicates a correct answer for a question. Accordingly, neither Bolton, nor Sonnenfeld, nor Fields, alone or in any combination, teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 12. Accordingly, the cited references fail to detract from the patentability of Claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New Claims

New Claim 21 depends from Claim 1 and thereby incorporates the novel features of Claim 1. New Claim 21 is not anticipated by nor is it rendered obvious by the cited references either alone or in combination. Specifically, each cited reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the two or more selectable graphical user interface objects generated by an interactive fill-in-the-blank applet include graphical user interface objects that are selectable and activatable by a user to change a state of the interactive fill-in-the-blank applet. Accordingly, new Claim 21 is patentable distinct from each of the cited references either alone or in combination.

New Claim 22 depends from Claim 17 and thereby incorporates the novel features of Claim 17. New Claim 22 is not anticipated by nor is it rendered obvious by the cited references either alone or in combination. Specifically, each cited reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the two or more selectable graphical user interface objects generated by an interactive fill-in-the-blank applet include graphical user interface objects

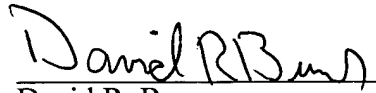
that are selectable and activatable by a user to change a state of the interactive fill-in-the-blank applet. Accordingly, new Claim 22 is patentable distinct from each of the cited references either alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants contend that Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-13, and 17-22 presently pending in this application, are patentable, and in condition for allowance. If the Examiner deems there are any remaining issues, we invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,

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